

Message Text

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46

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-05 FSI-01 SAJ-01 SS-20 NSC-07 L-03

H-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01

USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-03 DRC-01 /102 W

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R 012350Z AUG 74

FM AMCONSUL QUEBEC

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 382

INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

UNCLAS QUEBEC 97

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, PINT, CA

SUBJECT: QUEBEC PRIME MINISTER STATEMENT ON ADOPTION OF
FRENCH AS OFFICIAL LANGUAGE

REF: QUEBEC A-20

1. QUEBEC PRIME MINISTER BOURASSA JULY 31 BROADCAST SHORT RADIO/TV MESSAGE NOTING THAT WITH PASSAGE OF LAW 22 FRENCH HAD BEEN PROCLAIMED THE OFFICIAL LANGUAGE OF QUEBEC FOR THE FIRST TIME IN HISTORY.
2. HE STATED ACCORDING TO LE SOLEIL THAT: HENCEFORTH WHEREVER IN THE WORLD QUEBEC HAS A PRESENCE IT WILL BE KNOWN THAT THERE IS ON THE NORTH AMERICAN CONTINENT A FRENCH STATE WHICH INTENDS TO FLOURISH AS SUCH WHILE TAKING PART IN THE GREAT DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES SHARED BY OTHER MODERN SOCIETIES, HE ADDED: QUEBEC IS A FRENCH LAND WHICH INTENDS TO CONTINUE TO CONTRIBUTE TO CANADA WHAT MAKES UP ONE OF ITS MOST FASCINATING ASPECTS, NAMELY, THE COEXISTENCE OF TWO GREAT CULTURES EACH DEVOTING ITS BEST TO BUILDING A YOUNG AND DYNAMIC COUNTRY HERE.
3. HE DESCRIBED LAW 22 AS EXPRESSING THE DETERMINATION OF THE GOVERNMENT AND THE IMMENSE MAJORITY OF QUEBECOIS TO MAKE QUEBEC A FRENCH STATE WHILE RESPECTING THE INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS OF THE MINORITY WHOSE MEMBERS SHOULD CONTINUE TO

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BE COMPLETELY CITIZENS OF QUEBEC.

4. COMMENT: STATEMENT REITERATES BOURASSA'S VIEW OF QUEBEC'S CULTURAL SOVEREIGNTY WITHIN CANADA AND IMPLIES THAT THIS CONCEPT WILL NOW INEVITABLY RECEIVE WIDER RECOGNITION

WE EXPECT HE WILL RETURN TO THIS THEME DURING HIS PUBLIC STATEMENTS DURING THE REST OF AUGUST.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LANGUAGE, SPEECHES, CULTURES, RADIO BROADCASTING
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 AUG 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974QUEBEC00097
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740210-1142
From: QUEBEC
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740882/aaaacslk.tel
Line Count: 68
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: QUEBEC A-20
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: kellerpr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 JUN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28 JUN 2002 by reddocgw>; APPROVED <05 JUL 2002 by kellerpr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: QUEBEC PRIME MINISTER STATEMENT ON ADOPTION OF FRENCH AS OFFICIAL LANGUAGE
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, CA, FR, QUEBEC, (BOURASSA)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005